

HalfSoledBoots'

Hats-and-Mittens Advent Calendar



The faeries have been out in the snow all evening...now with cherry cheeks and sparkling eyes they are back warm and dry in their mossy cottage. Their woollens are hung (not by them, the naughty rogues – what a mess they make!) on this little laundry line – a wee and whimsical advent calendar, the perfect size to hold treats for your own small folk.

Finished Size:	Each teeny hat is about 3.5 to 4 inches high , and about 3 inches across . Each little mitten is about 3 inches high and 1.5 to 2 inches across . The laundry line itself is about 8 feet in length , with the garments hung at approximately 5 inch intervals. This is all variable: I made the line to fit my space, plus a foot or two, so that it would droop a bit with the weight of the hats & mitts. You can make yours longer or shorter, however you like.	
Yarn:	Patons Classic Merino – remainders of five colours: 00202 Aran 00208 Burgundy 00225 Grey Mix 00229 Natural Mix 77115 New Denim	A Note on the Yarn: This project was a stash-buster for me, so I limited myself to using only the colours I had on hand. This worked out well – the limited palette makes all the wee garments harmonise beautifully. Any worsted- or DK-weight wool will do – it is a great project for using up remainders. If you wish to use a different yarn weight, you will need to change the needle size and the stitch count in order to make the pieces come out a similar size.
Needles:	Set of four, 4 – 4.5mm double-pointed needles. 5.5 – 6mm crochet hook for finishing.	
Notions:	Darning or tapestry needle for finishing. Small stitch holder for working the thumbs of the mittenettes. Stitch markers to help with colourwork, if using. Christmas or winter CD, to get you in the mood.	

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Tension:	Free yourself! Gauge is not important and whatever you get will be perfect. But, if you prefer parameters, shoot for about 5 stitches to the inch.
Glossary:	m1 – make one stitch: lift the strand between two stitches, and knit into the back of it. k2tog – knit two stitches together (left-leaning decrease). SSK – slip two stitches, one at a time. Insert left needle back into both and knit through back of both together (right-leaning decrease). rpt – repeat chain – make a slip knot on a crochet hook. Push hook through to catch the working yarn, and pull it back through the slip knot. You have made a link! Repeat as necessary.

Hat

Cast on 30 stitches – 10 on each of three double-pointed needles. Join in round (careful! No twisty!) and begin K1 P1 ribbing. Knit in rib for 6 rounds. Knit one round in stockinette, while increasing six stitches. (k5, m1, repeat to end.) 36 sts.

Continue in stockinette for about 15 rounds, or 2 inches, adding texture or colourwork to this section if you like. (See charts on page 3.) Plain stockinette is nice, too.

Decrease for crown as follows:

Round 1: (K5, k2tog) rpt to last 8 stitches, then k5, k3tog once (30 sts)

Round 2: K

Round 3: (K4, K2tog) rpt to end (25 sts)

Round 4: K

Round 5: (K3, k2tog) rpt to end (20 sts)

Round 6: (K2, k2tog) rpt to end (15 sts)

Round 7: (K1, k2tog) rpt to end (10 sts)

Round 8: (K2tog) rpt to end (5 sts)

Break yarn and thread through all stitches, drawing up tight. Weave in ends, steam block if desired.

Mitten:

Cast on 24 stitches – 8 on each of three double-pointed needles. Join in round (watch it!) and begin K1 P1 ribbing. Knit in rib for 8 rounds. Knit one round in stockinette, while increasing four stitches. (k6, m1, repeat to end.) 28 sts.

Continue in stockinette for 2 more rounds.

Next Rnd: Reserve stitches for thumb. Knit next 4 stitches onto waste yarn. Drop waste yarn. Using MC, k to end of round. (You will have a four-stitch bar of MC on the wrong side of your work – disregard it. Nobody will be wearing this mitten.)

On next round, begin texture or colourwork if you like. Any chart whose stitch repeat is a multiple of four will do. You can use any peerie band or border pattern from a stitch dictionary, or just make some up! (See sample charts on page 3.) Plain stockinette is nice, too.

Once mitten is about 2.5" long, decrease for fingers. Divide stitches in half, placing one half on the first DPN, and one quarter on each of the other two DPNs.

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Round 1: (K1, SSK, k6, k2tog, k1) repeat.

Round 2: K

Round 3: (K1, SSK, k4, k2tog, k1) repeat.

Round 4: K

Round 5: (K1, SSK, k3, K2tog, K1) repeat.

Round 6: (K1, SSK, k1, k2tog, k1) repeat. (10 sts)

Round 7: (K1, S1, K2tog, pass slipped st over, k1) repeat. (5 sts)

Break yarn and run through remaining sts, pull up tightly and fasten off.

THUMB:

Carefully pull waste yarn from held thumb stitches, replacing them on DPNs as you go. You should have four on the bottom row (the ribbing side), and four or five on the top row. Join in round. (9 sts.) Knit for about $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Round 1: K2tog to last 3, k3tog. (4 sts)

Round 2: break yarn, thread through remaining stitches, pull up tightly and fasten off.

Finishing:

You may choose to add numbers from 1 to 24 – this is the work of a moment on each woollie, with a bit of contrasting wool and a darning needle. (My advent calendar does not have any numbers. I left them off because I wanted to be able to change the order from year to year, and because I thought the colourwork looked well enough on its own.)

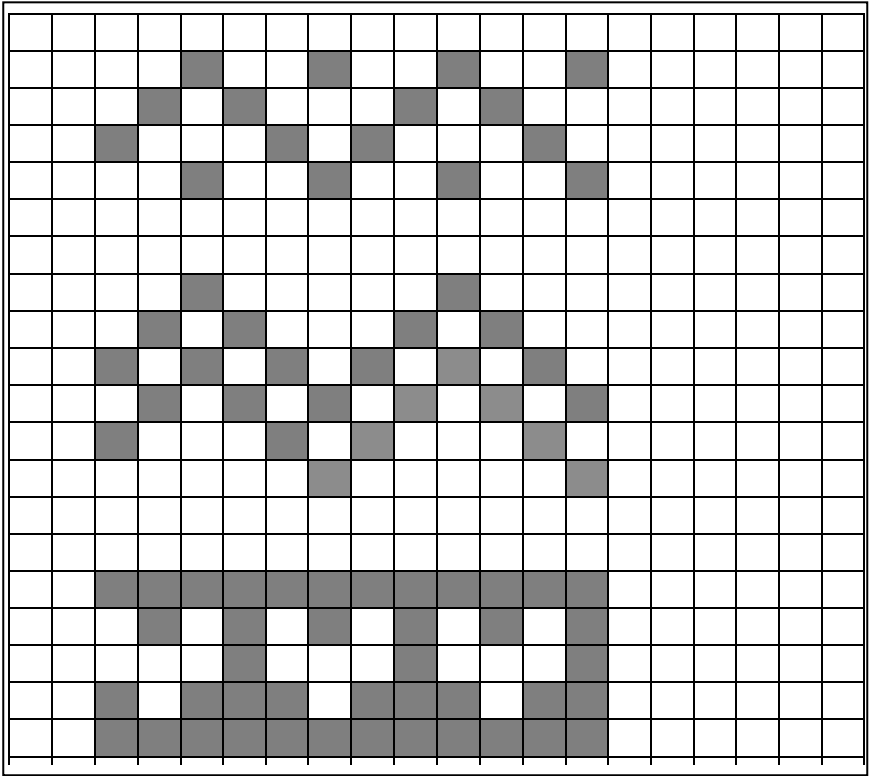
The laundry line:

With the same wool as you used in the hats, and a large-ish crochet hook (mine might have been about a 5.5 mm), chain happily until you have got a nice long washing line. Test it in the spot your calendar will go: if it is too short, chain a little more. If it is too long, pull the chain back a bit. Once you're pleased with it, break the yarn and knot the end. Bang in a nail or two, or tie around a likely-looking newel post.

Poke around a hobby store until you find those cute wooden clothes pins, about an inch long. (I found mine at a dollar store, in the scrapbooking section.) Pin up your faerie woollens and stuff them with tiny chocolates and a little Christmas verse for each day.

Good Yule!

Sample Charts



Here is the second Advent calendar I made – this one used a mixture of handspun (the greys and the off-white) and Briggs & Little sock yarn (red). I used fewer colours and patterns in order to achieve a more uniform result, as it was to be a Christmas gift.

There are eight woollies using red as the main colour, eight using dark grey, and eight using light grey. And you can see it looks quite different than the brighter version shown above.

